Trade between India and Bangladesh

†2335. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of trade between India and Bangladesh during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been decline in the trade between India and Bangladesh during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the reasons due to which trade between India and Bangladesh is hampered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Trade between India and Bangladesh has been steadily progressing which may be seen from the details given in the table below:

(Value in US$ Million)

Year	India's exports to Bangladesh	India's imports from Bangladesh	Total Trade
2000-2001	872.98	73.87	946.85
2001-2002	1002.18	59.12	1061.30
2002-2003	1176.00	62.05	1238.24
2003-2004	1646.08	62.24	1708.32
(April-Dec.) 2004	1100.13	31.89	1131.89

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Upto the year 2003-04, total trade between India and Bangladesh was registering strong growth. However, during the year 2004-05 (April-December), a marginal decrease has been noticed but this could not be generalised as decline.

Import of sensitive items

†2336. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of sensitive items has dropped in the country during the current financial year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total worth of items imported during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The provisional value of total import of sensitive items during April-November, 2004 is Rs. 12,462 crores as compared to Rs. 12,520 crores during the corresponding period of previous year thereby showing a negative growth of 0.5%.

(c) The total value of items imported during April-November 2004 was Rs. 2,92,566 crore (provisional) as compared to Rs. 2,20,924 crore during the corresponding period of last year.

Imposition of anti-dumping duty on sea food by the US

2337. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the USA has imposed final anti-dumping duty on sea food imports from our country;

(b) if so, whether, it is lower than the earlier one; and

(c) if so, how, far it has put our industry on a better footing compared to the previous duty regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) US Department of Commerce announced the final anti-dumping duty of 10.17% on Indian sea food imports from India.

(b) The preliminary anti-dumping duty imposed on Indian sea food by US Department of Commerce was 14.20%. After hearing our arguments by the lawyer and also based on the statistics furnished by the mandatory respondents, the US Department of Commerce has now fixed the anti-dumping duty to 10.17%.

(c) With the reduced rate of anti-dumping duty now fixed at 10.17%, the sea food exporters from India are certainly on a better footing compared to the preliminary duty earlier fixed. This will make our products more competitive in the US markets.